

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A magneto-optical recording medium comprising four magnetic layers including a mask layer, a reproduction layer, an intermediate layer and a recording layer, wherein the reproduction layer and the recording layer each have a direction of easy magnetization extending in a layer stacking direction at room temperature, the mask layer and the intermediate layer each have a direction of easy magnetization extending in an in-plane direction at room temperature, the mask layer, the reproduction layer, the intermediate layer and the recording layer have Curie temperatures T_{c1} , T_{c2} , T_{c3} and T_{c4} , respectively, which satisfy relationships of $T_{c3} < T_{c2}$, $T_{c3} < T_{c4}$ and $T_{c3} < T_{c1}$, and the intermediate layer is a rare-earth-rich magnetic layer.